

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/24025

B x I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 14-15
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-13, 16-18, 25-29

A method for fabricating a phase separated liquid crystal with alignment comprising the steps of preparing a mixture of liquid crystal, prepolymer, and polarization-sensitive material on a substrate and applying a polarized light to said mixture.

Claims 25-29 relate to a cell obtained by the method according to claim 1.

2. Claims: 19-24

See claim 19

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 14-15

Claim 1 mentions "applying a polarized light and inducing phase separation of said mixture". It has to be concluded that the light induces the phase separation.

However in contradiction with the above dependent claim 14 states "thermally activating said mixture to induce phase separation.

It appears that the thermal means for inducing the phase separation could be different from the polarized light use in claim 1 (see page 10, lines 13-14).

This contradiction between the claims render the claims 14, 15 unclear such that a search is not possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/24025

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
JP 11153787	A	08-06-1999	US	6083575 A	04-07-2000
JP 11237612	A	31-08-1999	NONE		
EP 0568355	A	03-11-1993	JP	2812843 B	22-10-1998
			JP	6160815 A	07-06-1994
			JP	6160824 A	07-06-1994
			JP	6160817 A	07-06-1994
			JP	6175109 A	24-06-1994
			JP	2880361 B	05-04-1999
			JP	6186542 A	08-07-1994
			JP	2937684 B	23-08-1999
			JP	6214218 A	05-08-1994
			JP	2930496 B	03-08-1999
			JP	6301015 A	28-10-1994
			DE	69328887 D	27-07-2000
			DE	69328887 T	09-11-2000
			US	5473450 A	05-12-1995
JP 08179286	A	12-07-1996	NONE		
EP 0689084	A	27-12-1995	CN	1130259 A	04-09-1996
			JP	8015681 A	19-01-1996
			SG	34990 A	01-02-1997
			US	6160597 A	12-12-2000
US 5602661	A	11-02-1997	CN	1096807 A,B	28-12-1994
			CN	1091458 A,B	31-08-1994
			DE	59403063 D	17-07-1997
			DE	59408097 D	20-05-1999
			EP	0611981 A	24-08-1994
			EP	0611786 A	24-08-1994
			HK	1007196 A	01-04-1999
			HK	1012018 A	28-04-2000
			JP	2543666 B	16-10-1996
			JP	6289374 A	18-10-1994
			JP	6287453 A	11-10-1994
			US	RE36625 E	21-03-2000
			US	5539074 A	23-07-1996
			US	6160597 A	12-12-2000